

S-476
George H. Miles House
Freemantown
Private

c. 1923-28

Located on the west side of Freedomtown Road in the historic black community of Freemantown, this two-and-a-half story frame house is raised on a high concrete block pier foundation. Elevated well above surrounding structures, the weatherboard frame house dates from the early 1920s and is distinctive to that time with its squarish form, pyramidal roof, and single-pane sash windows. The high foundation elevated the structure from the low-lying, poorly drained nature of the lot and protected foundation timbers from decay.

Construction of this house is attributed to George H. Miles, who purchased the Freemantown lot in June 1923 for \$500. He financed the building program within the five years following, and George Miles is recorded in a mortgage of \$1560 to "The Home Building and Loan Association of Crisfield, Maryland, Inc." in 1928.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: GEORGE H. MILES HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: S-476

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. S-476

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GEORGE H. MILES HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West side of Freedomtown Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Nancy B. Derrickson

street & number 7 Harris Lane telephone no.:

city, town Willingboro state and zip code New Jersey 08046

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 138

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 92

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-476

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The George H. Miles house stands on the west side of Freedomtown Road in the black community of Freemantown, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame dwelling faces east. It is abandoned and surrounded by a heavy growth of small trees, bushes and vines.

Dating from around 1920-25, the two-and-a-half story weatherboard frame house is supported by a high concrete block pier foundation, and the squarish main block is topped by a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. A layer of asphalt shingles covers an older layer of wood shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a shed roofed addition.

The east (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with a partially enclosed shed roofed porch that covers the first floor. Paired single-pane sash windows light the first floor, and a series of three evenly spaced single-pane sash windows light the second floor. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. The east face of the pyramidal roof is marked by a hip roofed dormer that has a pair of single-pane windows. The glass is gone. Rising through the center of the house is an interior single-flue brick stove chimney.

The south side of the house is marked by an asymmetrical fenestration with paired single-pane sash windows lighting the first floor, and a single one-over-one sash window illuminating the second floor. The windows are framed by plain board surrounds.

The north side is similarly finished, and the west (rear) wall is enlarged by a hip roofed kitchen addition.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-476

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Located on the west side of Freedomtown Road in the historic black community of Freemantown, this two-and-a-half story frame house is raised on a high concrete block pier foundation. Elevated well above surrounding structures, the weatherboard frame house dates from the early 1920s and is distinctive to that time with its squarish form, pyramidal roof, and single-pane sash windows. The high foundation elevated the structure from the low-lying, poorly drained nature of the lot and protected foundation timbers from decay.

Construction of this house is attributed to George H. Miles, who purchased the Freemantown lot in June 1923 for \$500.(Somerset County Land Record, WJS 87/246) He financed the building program within the five years following, and George Miles is recorded in a mortgage of \$1560 to "The Home Building and Loan Association of Crisfield, Maryland, Inc." in 1928.(Somerset County Land Record, GWL 96/453)

GEORGE H. MILES HOUSE

Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County, Maryland

138 / 92

5 / 3 1 / 1945

Alice V. Tawes
A. Wellington Tawes
Minnie D. Tawes
Avalyn G. Tawes
Marvin B. Tawes
Helen B. Tawes

George H. Miles
Lydia C. Miles

George H. Miles

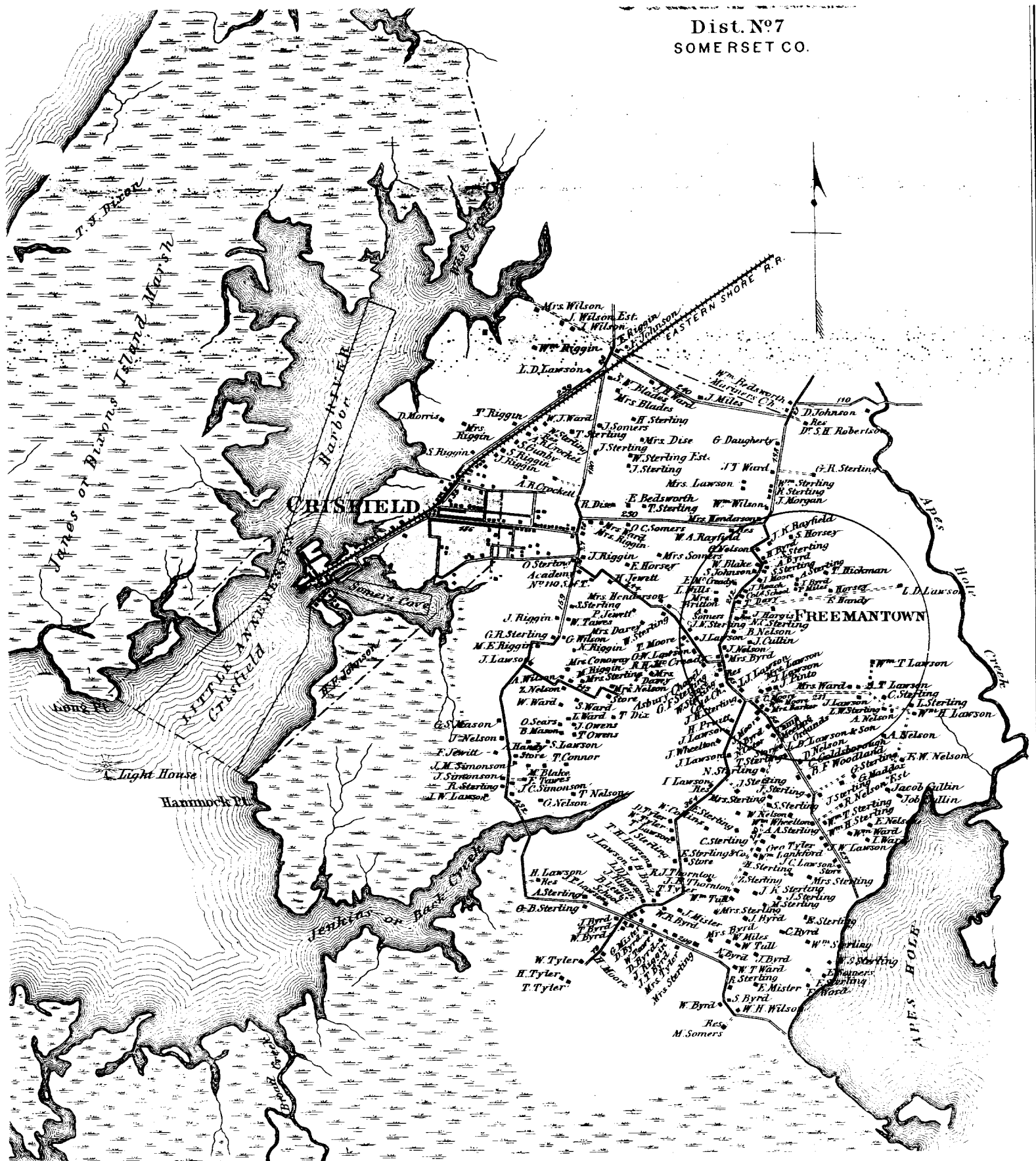
1 / 16 / 1937

Release to "The Home Building and Loan
Association of Crisfield, Maryland, Incorp."
\$1560.00 5/12/1928 GWL 96/453

Leah Blake, widow

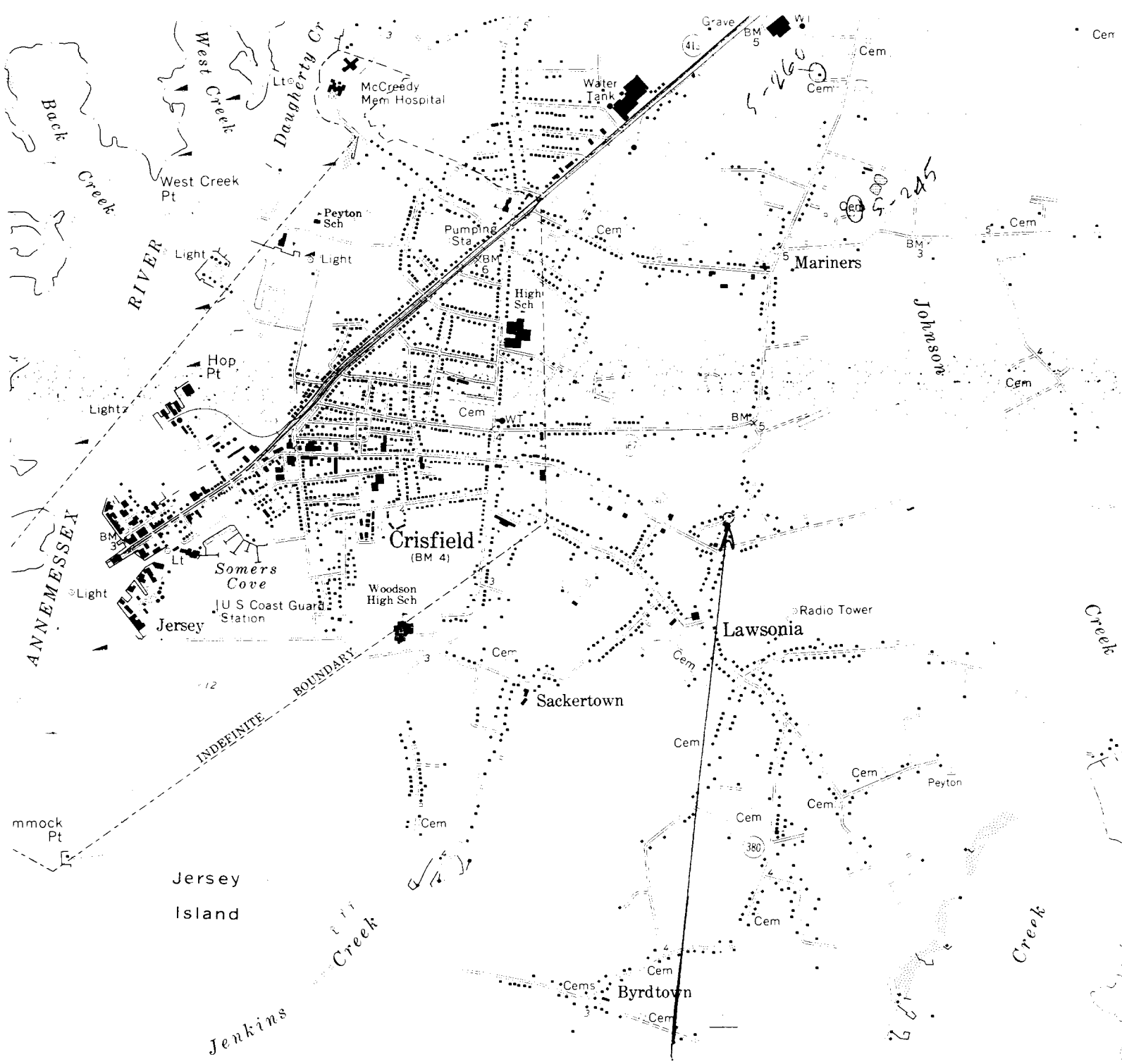
6 / 20 / 1923

\$500.00 land inherited by Leah Blake
from her mother Sabra Brittingham



S-476
GEORGE H. MILES HOUSE
Freemantown, Somerset County, MD

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas 1877



S-476
 GEORGE H. MILES HOUSE
 Freemantown, Crisfield vicinity,
 Somerset County, Maryland

Crisfield, Maryland Quadrangle
 1968

ware point

Marsh

Long Pt Long Point Island

Tidal Flat

Big Island

Light 23
 24

Creek
 Landing Gut
 Bright Gut
 Br

Massey

Little Ware P

Creek

Creek

Jenkins

Jersey Island

Jersey

Somers Cove
 U S Coast Guard Station

Crisfield (BM 4)

Woodson High Sch

Sackertown

Lawsonia

Radio Tower

Byrdtown

Peyton

Cem

Cem

Cem

Cem

Cem

3

Light

12

Hop Pt

Light

West Creek Pt

Light

Pumping Sta

High Sch

Cem

WT

5

Mariners

Johnson

Cem

Cem

Cem

BM 5

41

Grave

W 1

Cen



S-476

George H. Mice House

CRISFIELD VICINITY,

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

6/95, PAUL TOWNETT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEL / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

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